

The phenomena connected with the violent state might be explained by the fact that a lowering of the atmospheric pressure would be followed by the rising of the column in the vent, and so giving a larger quantity of lava to be ejected. It would also be followed by an increased quantity of steam generated from the lava, which added to that formed as before in the steam chamber, would cause the eruptions to be much more rapid. This would be assisted also by additional water supply in wet weather.

The paroxysmal state may perhaps be explained by the sudden lowering of atmospheric pressure for a great distance along a volcanic fissure, the consequent formation of a large quantity of steam, which finding its way to the place of least resistance, would by its sudden exit cause a catastrophe.

In conclusion I wish to state, that one of my chief objects in submitting this paper to you is to direct attention and inquiry towards this unique and little known volcano, and also to the group in which this and other volcanoes exist; and I have to express the hope that a systematic and thorough investigation of the many interesting scientific features in the New Hebrides and surrounding islands, may be a work in which the Royal Society of Victoria may see its way to engage.

X.—*The Oceanic Languages Semitic.*

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